Amoy Novr. 15th 1847

My dear Brethren

Since our last date to you, we have not received from the other ports news of any important changes, or advancements, in Missionary operations. We have heard a rumor from Shanghai, that Bp. Boone's renewed failure of health, was likely to result in his speedy return to the U.S. - We know that he has been for some time in very precarious health, but our latest direct information from Shanghai does not allude to any intention on his part of leaving the field. It is to be sincerely desired that he may be spared to afford his aid, at least until the revision of the translation of the N.T. now in progress, shall have been completed. - We have heard of the arrival there, of two or three Missionaries from the London Society, whom I think I mentioned in my letter of Septr. as being on their way. - We have word from Foo-chow-fu to Nov. 3rd The Methodist, & Am. Bd. brethren were then doing well. The people had objected to, & prevented, the Meth. brn. from taking a house within the city walls. But there was scarcely any object to be gained in getting within the walls, - residences outside promising more personal comfort, & equal facilities for missionary work, - free access being allowed to the population within the walls for daily personal intercourse. - Mr. Burns, from the Free Church, had not yet arrived. -

Since our last we have parted with Mrs. Alex. Stronach & her family. Mr. S. accompanied them to Hong-kong - but his Chapel is supplied in his absence, in all the daily & Sabbath extra services, by those of us still here. - Mr. Pohlman has commenced another daily service in the forenoon, in a house available for the present on the ground procured for the proposed Church. All our

Six weeks ago a German Missionary (Mr. Roister) resident at Hong-kong was removed by death. - probably a sacrifice to a zeal not sufficiently prudent. He was living among the Chinese in a style, that as he was wont, was sure soon to cause a fatal result.

services have been of late better attended, & we have been somewhat encouraged by the pretty regular attendance of several individuals.- Yesterday (Sabbath) p.m. one of these brought to the Chapel where I was talking, a female relative & several little girls.- During the prevalence of the N. E. Monsoon we usually have a better attendance, on account of the number of junks in port.- the sailors from which frequent the Chapels.- We have of late had several applications for admission to the Church, where the motives were easily seen to be sinister.- Our hired servant told me the other morning, that many persons came to him expressing their desires, & wishing to know how much we would give.- We should like to consider every man who applies sincere, until he proves himself otherwise,- but it is found to be impossible, in the circumstances, to command so much charity.- It continues to be the day of small things here, but we believe that we shall see greater things. We feel weak. We dwell with earnest importunity on truths which seem to us so weighty that they must make impression on those who listen, but the most thorough indifference continues to mark the countenances of the hearers.- Shall we give up? Certainly not. The Command & the promises of our Lord & Saviour remain, & we cheerfully obey the one, & rely on the other. But we wish help. Our great help is from God, & we know that by His power accompanying our efforts, very soon flourishing Churches, & efficient native teachers, might be raised up.- But that does not make it improper, or unnecessary, to plead for additional laborers from among yourselves. The blessing of God on the labors of a small part of the ministers in the U. S. might accomplish more than is looked for, from all the array of effort, to increase there the number of devoted laborers, by the most sanguine. Yet it is readily admitted, that this enterprising zeal is loudly called for by the circumstances of the case.- The states & territories

of the U.S. do need a large increase of faithful teachers of the truth; & if a considerable enlargement of that territory takes place, as is anticipated, the demand will become more pressing. We would not wish these calls for devoted exertion to be lost sight of by any. They are not lost sight of by ourselves, & we delight to see that many realize their urgency. - One thing however is admitted by those who have given most attention to the subject, in its widest range. (We cannot here give the details which establish its truth, but serious investigation by yourselves in Scripture & in Church History, especially of the most modern efforts, will make it apparent.) It is this, - that no one who thinks of entering the wide fields of the heathen world, need for a moment concern himself with the fear that less will be done at home through his absence. - On the contrary, he may with good reason anticipate a greater benefit at home, by his consecration to the foreign work, & not without ground, dread that his declining to go abroad, will prove a hindrance to the advancement of Christ's cause both at home & among the heathen.
(Do you admit the soundness of these views? Then give due weight to them in deciding the question of individual duty. If you doubt their truth, have you with singleness of heart, devoted yourselves to the examination of the evidence on which they are said to rest?) If these things are true, you may devote yourselves simply to the determination of the question, Where lies the field most destitute, which is open to my effort? To aid you in this matter I wish agai to call your attention to this field, only adding that as much, & in particulars nearly the same, may be said of the four other ports. - We have recently discovered that in 1832 a census of this city was taken, & we have now the means of a more satisfactory estimate of its present population. It then numbered 83.000 males & 61.000 females, not including the temporary residents, living here without their families for purposes of trade. - The outward marks of decay have led us to suspect a decrease in the population since

the Census was taken, but the natives say, that, while there is an increase of poverty, the population is certainly not diminished. - Last week I again stood on the top of the highest peak on the island, & looked down on the crowded villages of the cultivated parts, containing another 150.000 or approaching to that number. - Nearly as accessible are the other hundreds of thousands of Chiang-chiu & Tang-ōa & their respective valleys. - Closely connected with the population of those districts are myriads more. Brethren look at this densely crowded mass of heathen. - Your imagination can lead you abroad through the numberless cities & villages of these swarming valleys & plains. Give yourselves time to realize the strong points of the picture. These are _heathen_, going down in all their numbers, to the hell of the wicked & the nations that forget God. - You desire & pray for their conversion to Christ. - But it is clear that teachers for such a multitude cannot be brought from distant Christian lands. True. But some teachers must come, & the more that come the sooner will the desired supply of native preachers be produced. - If one missionary may be expected to bring forward five native laborers in ten years, four missionaries may be expected to bring forward twenty in the same period. - We need a far larger number of men from the Schools of Christian lands. - And here is room for the widest scope of the best talent that our Seminaries can afford. (It is said that tens of thousands are pouring in annually on American soil, from the ignorant masses of Europe, & the _wisest_ & _best_ men of the land are _taking all their powers_, to devise & carry out plans to bring those masses under the ~~power~~ influence of an enlightened Christianity. And as these most experienced & most able men regard that class of population, & look also to the multitudes multiplying on the soil, spreading to distant & more distant sections, & to those brought more within influence by additions to territory, they are often perplexed, & sometimes in fear. They feel that the widest field which the most

-powerful & most fertile minds could wish, in which to find scope for their best schemes to get power over & mould to holy forms & sanctified uses, the minds of men, is there afforded, they feel that powerful & fertile minds are needed to gain the requisite influence over these masses.- But if all that is true with reference to the Society of the U. States & territories it is also true with regard to the conversion of such a population as surrounds us, to the wholesome forms of Christian life as it is seen, or anticipated, in America. - Great learning & profound analysis are not needed to silence in argument the population to be influenced at home - neither are the here. But the ablest minds are needed in both cases, to meet & disarm superstitious prejudices, & destroy the power of forms of belief sanctified in the eyes of the people by the practice of their ancestors, & of the great & learned of their own day.- Men of strong minds can become more thoroughly versed in all that belongs to society, whether in the books of the learned, or in the popular superstitions, & make the best use of whatever is gained in overturning what is false. It is true that persons of not such superior strength, find here a place for accomplishing good in proportion to their ability; so that ordinary men need not turn away. Yet it is true, as has been expressed in the public proceedings of the American Board, that men of leading minds are principally needed. This is more particularly true of such a field as this, where from the difficulty of the language, the *working* instrumentality for *directly* operating on the large masses, must be found among the natives.-

I know, Brethren, that it is your constant prayer that you may be guided by Providence in selecting & entering upon the fields of your ministerial labor. By what means do our ministers usually ascertain the leadings of Providence? - Suppose a person to be just licensed, or just leaving the Seminary. There is just then a call received to preach on trial, or at once to become the pastor, in a now vacant congregation, in a neighboring city, or in the midst of a flourishing district of his native state. This is considered to be in all probability a call Providence to settle in the given neighborhood. But before any steps have been taken a still more promising opening is presented, in a larger congregation at a more commanding point. It is at once considered probable that, not the former, but this is the call of Providence — Nor is it any thing of considerable weight against the probability, that the second opening leads across rivers, mountains, & state boundaries. If at this juncture it is suggested that there is a populous city, closely surrounded by hundreds of thousands, & even millions of people, in most urgent need, having almost none to labor for their enlightenment & salvation; this is of course a still plainer indication of the will of Providence. No one dare say — 'No! — this third opening leads me away from my Country & across the ocean'. — This method of determining the will of God as to our place of labor is sound enough — but it is to be feared, that a too limited scope for its application is sometimes allowed. — This limitation results probably in most cases from the candidates for the ministry having, from the start, taken it for granted that their sphere of labor must be their own land. — forgetting, in a very important sense, the Command "Go ye into all the world". — (Brethren, we believe that these suggestions may with profit occupy your thoughts, & we therefore offer them commending them to the blessing of Him whom we all wish to serve until it is His pleasure to call us away. We desire & pray that the rich influences of Christ's Spirit may rest with you now & in all your future labors.

25th — dates from Foo-chow-foo to 11th all well.

Latest dates from Shanghai Sept. 22d — from Ningpo Sept. 6th — You will have later news from other sources. The blessing of excellent health is still granted to us all. — Mr. Lloyd unites with me in sentiments of respect & affection to the Professors, & in Christian regards to you all. Yours, sincerely in the love of the Gospel

H. A. Brown

Answered April 4th 1848

~~Overland via Southampton~~

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